

From Destruction to Construction

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I construct wall-like labyrinthine structures out of wood in urban settings. By explaining the places that I use and the material[#] (I always use wood), I think I can convey a general sense of the ideas that lie behind my work.

First of all, structures are assembled in ordinary settings, not just museums and galleries—for example, an empty lot in the city surrounded by buildings. I also use arcades, buildings at construction sites before they are demolished, and the most private space^s of all^{em} a room^s in an apartment or condominium.

When people walk around ~~in the space~~ and observe that the wooden structure and overall space are assembled in relationship to each other, the setting itself, I think, conveys the impression of having been taken apart or reassembled.

In cities today, where everything is built on the basis of plans, the very process of constructing something simultaneously reveals the process of destruction. If so, then it seems to me that the simple activity of assembling things contains another meaning as well. When one observes over time the activity of putting things together and dismantling and returning them to their

→ previous state, then every^hting seems to be part of a large cycle of construction and destruction. The same is true of wood.

The sight of huge crates and scaffolding at construction sites all over the city fills me with a sense of the city's energy. The reason is that it seems to be a great symbol of productivity and consumption. I take my material from the midst of this lively activity: sometimes it is discarded material gathered from construction sites, old wood from a lumber yard, or things picked up off the street. These discarded items were assembled in a particular place for a while, and given a function as part of structure, and then were taken apart and returned to the streets as discarded objects once more. I am interested in the process that these materials pass through itself. More than^h simply being a matter of recycling or an expression of ecological thinking, it expresses what I think about one large economic system.

This time of the exhibition at StoreFront, I will present the documentation of my recent projects in several cities by drawings, photographs, and other texts.

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